

emotion was sincere on his part,, it was shared by many present; and for my own part I confess that my feelings were deeply moved when he uttered the words, " I leave you my wife and my son."<sup>73</sup> At that moment my eyes were fixed on the young Prince, and the interest with which he inspired me was equally unconnected with the<sup>1</sup> splendor which surrounded and the misfortunes which threatened him. I beheld in the interesting child not the King of Rome but the son of my old friend. All day long afterwards I could not help feeling depressed while comparing the farewell scene of the morning with the day on which we took possession of the Tuileries. How many centuries seemed the fourteen years which separated the two events !

It may be worth while to remind those who are curious in comparing dates that Napoleon, the successor of Louis XVI, and who had become the nephew of that monarch by his marriage with the niece of Marie Antoinette, took leave of the National Guard of Paris on the anniversary of the fatal 21st of January,<sup>1</sup> after twenty-five years of successive terror, fear, hope, glory, and misfortune.

Meanwhile, a Congress was opened at Chatillon-sur-Seine,<sup>2</sup> at which were assembled the Duke of Vicenza on the part of France, Lords Aberdeen and Cathcart and Sir Charles Stewart <sup>8</sup> as the representatives of England, Count Razumowsky on the part of Russia, Count Stadion for Austria, and Count

<sup>1</sup> Bourrienne makes a mistake here. The King was executed on the 21st of January, 1793, and Napoleon, as indeed Bourrienne himself has just said, received the officers of the National Guard on the 23d of January, 1814, and set out on the 25th of January. See also *Miot*, tome iii. pp. 309 and 371. Napoleon, even at such a time, was not likely to allow such a coincidence to happen: see the care with which in 1800 he avoided going to an ordinary party on the anniversary of the 18th Brumaire (*Junot*, tome i. p. 420).

<sup>2</sup> It should be remembered that at the time of the Congress of Chatillon the Allies were already in communication with the Royalist agents from Paris; and while, with more or less good faith, they were offering peace to Napoleon, they were listening to the offers of the friends of the Bourbons. The proceedings of the Royalists may have been natural; they were certainly unpatriotic, and the Allies were practically offered any terms if they upset the power of Napoleon. The Baron de Vitrolles (tome i. pp. 99 and 101) tells us in his Memoirs how he impressed on Metternich that the forces of Napoleon must be crushed if France were to pronounce for the Bourbons.

In their eagerness as partisans they forgot that, the army  
once crushed,  
France lay at the feet of the Allies, who could then make  
their own terms.  
<sup>8</sup> Afterwards the Marquis of Londonderry, who published  
an interesting account of the Congress.